

even as phonics was being phased out in California. They hewed to scripted math programs that stressed basic computational skills, even as the state moved to more experimental approaches.

Both also required their teachers to give regular student assessments, and they personally analyzed the results, a previously unheard-of practice that is only now gaining currency in schools.

In addition, both long ago said no to social promotion, holding back failing kindergartners in "junior first" classes that provide an extra year of phonics practice.

And both rejected bilingual education two decades before California voters officially ended the practice in 1997.

"I didn't believe in bilingual education, and my parents were dead set against it," said Thompson, a former first-grade teacher in Inglewood. "I didn't need a job bad enough to violate my ethics."

For Ichinaga, the decision grew out of personal experience: She was reared in a Japanese-speaking home on a Hawaiian sugar cane plantation but attended schools that taught in English. "My kids come to school much like I was, with very little English," she said.

These principals' methods, and the stability they brought, are reflected in test scores.

The average Kelso second-grader reached the 71st percentile in reading and the 79th percentile in math on last year's Stanford 9. The scores are comparable to the district average for second-grader in Irvine

The scores mean that the students were in the top echelons of test-takers nationwide.

Thompson and Ichinaga are a contrast in styles. While she was principal, Thompson was a quiet force on campus, personally training her teachers and parents while keeping a low public profile. Ichinaga is an outspoken advocate for her methods and a master at delegating authority to her best teachers.

"I'm dismayed that so many people still believe if you're a minority by color or language, you're at a disadvantage," Ichinaga said. "I don't believe that for a minute. We have to get rid of that mentality."

Ichinaga's campus has drawn more attention in recent years because of the visible role she has taken in education reform. She sat on the task force that helped draft Gov. Gray Davis' education agenda shortly after he was elected two years ago, and she is regularly invited to speak at education conferences. Davis appointed her this year to the State Board of Education.

Although Bennett-Kew has received more acclaim, Kelso, a year-around school, has quietly assumed the top rank in the district. One reason, Thompson and Kelso's teachers say, is that all students are invited to take classes during their vacation breaks for a few hours a day. Up to two-thirds of her students return, meaning they literally attend school all year long.

"We're committed to overturning perception in education—that so-called low socioeconomic children can't learn," said Linda Stevenson, a longtime Kelso teacher who was the first to use Open Court at school. "Of course, they can learn. We're here to prove it."

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

MAIN STREET POOCH

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2000

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, the people of Martinez, California, lost a great friend and a fixture in the community with the death of Charlie, the beloved golden retriever and member of the Ross family. Mr. Speaker, the relationship between Gene Ross and his dog, Charlie, was wonderful to behold. They went everywhere together. Whether Gene was running in the hills of Alhambra Valley or the trails of the Sierra Mountains above the Tahoe Basin, Charlie was always at his side. And if you walked or ran with them, you could listen to their constant conversation.

During summer vacations at Donner Lake, Charlie would dive into the chilly water where others were timid. He especially loved it when the kids were in the water, so he could look after them and swim with them. As friends and family gather for the upcoming traditional Fourth of July festivities at the Ross cabin, this year will be different. This year just before the fireworks start, we will not kid Gene as he talks to Charlie to calm him down about the fireworks and then puts him in the bedroom with the radio on so he won't be frightened at the explosions. In all those years together Gene could never convince Charlie not to be afraid of the fireworks.

Mr. Speaker, downtown Martinez and all the friends of Gene and Marge Ross are going to miss both Charlie and the special relationship that they enjoyed. Following is a letter that Gene wrote that was published in our local paper:

[From the Contra Costa Times, May 2000]

MAIN STREET POOCH WON'T BE FORGOTTEN

DEAR GARY: On Monday we suffered the loss of our beloved golden retriever, Charlie.

Charlie was a fixture on Main Street in Martinez. He went to work with me every day for 14 years and had so many people that loved him. This is our way of letting them know about him.

Last Friday, Dr. Ruth Adams, our veterinarian, diagnosed Charlie with a fast-growing bone cancer. There was no hope of saving him, only of keeping him happy for the few remaining days.

Charlie loved greeting visitors to our office, visiting with clients (as long as they didn't try to sit in "his" chair) and going down Main Street with me to take care of business. He brought a smile to everyone's face.

He ran in Briones Park with our running group, Rob, Peter, Paul and myself, for 14 years. His excitement over our long runs never altered. If we ran 10 miles, he ran at least 15, always checking back to make sure we weren't lost.

He loved hiking in the Sierra, swimming in Donner Lake and cheering on our bocce team. His energy was boundless.

He talked, really "talked" to my wife, Margie, every night to let her know how our day at the office went. And always with two or three tennis balls in his mouth.

He let our two little grand-daughters cuddle and climb on him with such patience.

On Monday he went to the office with me for the last time. By noon I could see that he

was not doing well. I took him home to my wife who "talked" to him. He told her he was in pain and that it was time. She gave him medication to ease his pain.

As he wagged his tail and held his tennis ball in his mouth, we held him close, and Dr. Adams eased him into the world where his puppyhood friends, RJ and Morgan, waited for him at the Rainbow Bridge.

His tennis balls are still scattered around the house. Not to tell us he is coming back, but to tell us he will always be with us.

Thanks to all of Charlie's friends who have been so supportive and kind. And to you, for letting us share our loss.

GENE ROSS, Martinez.

RECOGNITION OF THE SALT RIVER PROJECT AS A LOCAL LEGACY

HON. JOHN B. SHADEGG

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2000

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the inclusion of the Salt River Project in the Local Legacies Program of the Library of Congress. I nominated the Salt River Project for this honor because of the pivotal role which it has played in the growth of the City of Phoenix and Central Arizona. This nomination was a natural decision for me: my father Stephen Shadeegg wrote several books on the Salt River Project, including its first narrative history in 1942, and subsequent works on the importance of the Project to Arizona's development. These books include: Arizona: An Adventure in Irrigation (1949), The Phoenix Story: An Adventure in Reclamation (1958), and Century One: One Hundred Years of Water Development (1969).

In 1868, Phoenix had a population of 100 people; it is now the sixth largest metropolitan area in the United States. All of this growth was made possible by the development of water storage and irrigation facilities and, since 1903, the Salt River Project has played a central role in this development.

In a desert state like Arizona, access to a reliable supply of water is literally a matter of life and death. The early settlers recognized this fact and constructed the first of many water supply canals in Phoenix in 1868. These early canals relied on diverting water from the rivers but did not include the construction of dams to create water storage reservoirs. This failure to store water proved to be a fatal flaw when drought hit in the 1890's. For three years, there was no rain and the rivers ceased to run. The population of Phoenix plummeted and conflicts, some of them deadly, erupted over the limited water available.

This devastating drought forced the citizens of Phoenix to band together and create an organization capable of financing, constructing, and operating a water storage and delivery system. It required the highest degree of personal commitment: each property owner in the Phoenix area pledged his or her property as collateral to finance the construction of the system. In 1903, this organization took shape as the Salt River Water Users' Association, now a part of the Salt River Project, and became the first water storage system organized under the Federal Reclamation Act.